

STATINTL

Senate Debate Triggered

Fulbright Views D. R. Darkly

Sen. J. William Fulbright's charge that U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic was a "grievous mistake" today triggered a new debate on America's role in the crisis.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D., Conn.), a close friend of President Johnson and one who has clashed with Sen. Fulbright before, planned a formal Senate speech of reply to the Arkansas Democrat.

Two other Democrats, Sens. Russell Long (La.) and George Smathers (Fla.), both in the leadership hierarchy, also challenged Sen. Fulbright's conclusions.

Sen. Fulbright, who sent a

copy of his speech to the President before delivering it in the Senate yesterday, said he anticipated criticism.

But he said Latin American liberals needed to be assured that the U.S. is not pro-intervention and anti-revolution.

The Senator, who is Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said a Committee study showed President Johnson was fed "exaggerated reports on the danger of a communist takeover" by panicky officials, and the U.S. intervened "not to save American lives, as was then contended," but to prevent a victory by Dominican rebels.

The only official Sen. Fulbright specifically named was W. Tapley Bennett, the foreign service career man who is U.S. Ambassador in Santo Domingo.

White House Press Secretary Bill Moyers said that after reading the speech he talked to, "a number of Government officials, career and otherwise, who simply do not believe the Senator's conclusions are justified."

He declined to specifically include the President among the "government officials." (UPI)